

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01 OMB-01 /089 W
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R 061540Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1219
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 6

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY: WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN SENTENCING AND
EXECUTION OF SABOTEURS ALLEGEDLY LINKED TO BAGHDAD.
SYRIAN-JORDANIAN CONTACTS CONTINUED RECEIVE PROMINENT
COVERAGE. EDITORIALS INTERPRETED ISRAELI DOMESTIC
DIFFERENCES AS STALLING ON ME PEACE ISSUE AND ATTACKED
SECURE-BORDERS CONCEPT. POSSIBILITY OF UNIFIED ARAB
DELEGATION AT GENEVA AGAIN RAISED. END SUMMARY.

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2. SYRIAN MEDIA HEADLINED: "BAGHDAD REGIME OF ASSASSINS
INSTIGATED CRIMINALS. DEATH SENTENCES FOR THREE
CRIMINALS AND HARD LABOR AND IMPRISONMENT FOR OTHER
GANG MEMBERS." ARTICLES OUTLINED CRIMES COMMITTED,
INCLUDING DETONATING NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVES IN POPULATED
AREAS OF DAMASCUS. TIES ALLEGED BETWEEN SEVERAL MEMBERS

OF SABOTAGE GROUP AND HIGH-RANKING IRAQIS.

3. TWO EDITORIALS APPEARED IN TISHRIIN, ENTITLED "ZIONIST TERROR AND ISRAEL'S DESPERATION" AND "ISRAEL'S PRINCIPLES AND QUESTION OF PEACE." FORMER ENGAGED IN RATHER CONVOLUTED "CAUSE AND AFFECT" THEORIES BY CLAIMING THAT ISRAEL, TERROR-STIRKEN AT THE PROSPECT THAT THE PLO MIGHT GO TO GENEVA, TRIED TO SOW DISSENSION BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO. WHEN ARABS FOILED THIS PLOT BY CALLING FOR UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION, ISRAEL INVENTED DOMESTIC DIFFERENCES TO DELAY PEACE EFFORTS. REFERRING TO RECENT SUICIDE OF HOUSING MINISTER, COLUMNIST ALLEGED THAT ISRAELIS SAW THEY HAD GOND TOO FAR AND, CONSEQUENTLY, RESORTED TO TERROR IN PARIS (ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PLO MEMBER). LATTER EDITORIAL RAISED ISSUE OF SECURE BORDERS AND ASSERTED THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AWARE SECURE BORDERS MILITARILY IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN MODERN METHODS OF WARFARE. ISRAEL ACCUSED OF USING BOUNDARY ISSUE TO AVOID REACHING JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT. FINALLY, EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH ASKED WHETHER NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL PROMOTE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON "BASES THAT DO NOT BEAR SEEDS OF FAILURE."

4. PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO AMMAN AND MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN WERE GIVEN WIDE BUT UNSPECIFIC COVERAGE. OTHER ARTICLES APPEARED TODAY AND PREVIOUSLY ON WORK SYRO-JORDANIAN JOINT COMMITTEES IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

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5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT ISRAEL CONFOUNDED BY ARAB STRATEGY TO FORM UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION INCLUDING PLO AT GENEVA IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT SYRIANS HAVE NOT ABANDONED THIS IDEA DESPITE FONMIN FAHMY'S PUBLIC REJECTION OF IT. ALMOST DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SYRO-JORDANIAN COORDINATION INDICATE SYRIANS DETERMINATION PROCEED WITH STRENGTHENING THEIR LINKS WITH JORDAN. NEITHER PROGRAM IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO EGYPT BUT PUBLICITY ABOUT THEM MAY BE INTENDED TO REMIND CAIRO THAT DAMASCUS CONTINUES TO HAVE ITS OWN IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED IN THE PEACE PROCESS. MURPHY

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Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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